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Cover Your Hide

by Congressmen Allen Boyd

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) is sweeping the globe with the rapidity of the Apalachicola after a rain storm. More than 30 nations have reported cases of this devastating virus. With recent outbreaks in Great Britain, France, Northern Ireland, and Argentina, the only continents free of the disease are North America, Australia, and Antarctica. The point of this Boyd Report is to inform those who are planning to travel overseas of the risks associated with hunting abroad.

Foot and Mouth Disease can be transmitted in a variety of ways, most often through direct contact with an infected animal. Infected animals are capable of spreading vast amounts of viral particles to animals and humans. While this disease is not considered to be a serious threat to humans, it is possible for a person to spread the virus to susceptible animals.

If you are planning to travel abroad there are some precautionary measures that you should take. First, before returning home, thoroughly cleanse yourself and your belongings, such as luggage and clothes. Second, avoid contact with animals for at least five days after returning; and lastly, do not bring home prohibited items.

Foot and Mouth Disease has the potential to wreak havoc on our animals and cause tens of billions of dollars in damage to the economy. Please report animals showing any signs of this disease

immediately. For more information please contact the [USDA
Veterinary Service](#)
at 352-333-3120.